

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

ED NO.

DATE DISTR: 13 June 1952

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	50X1-HUM
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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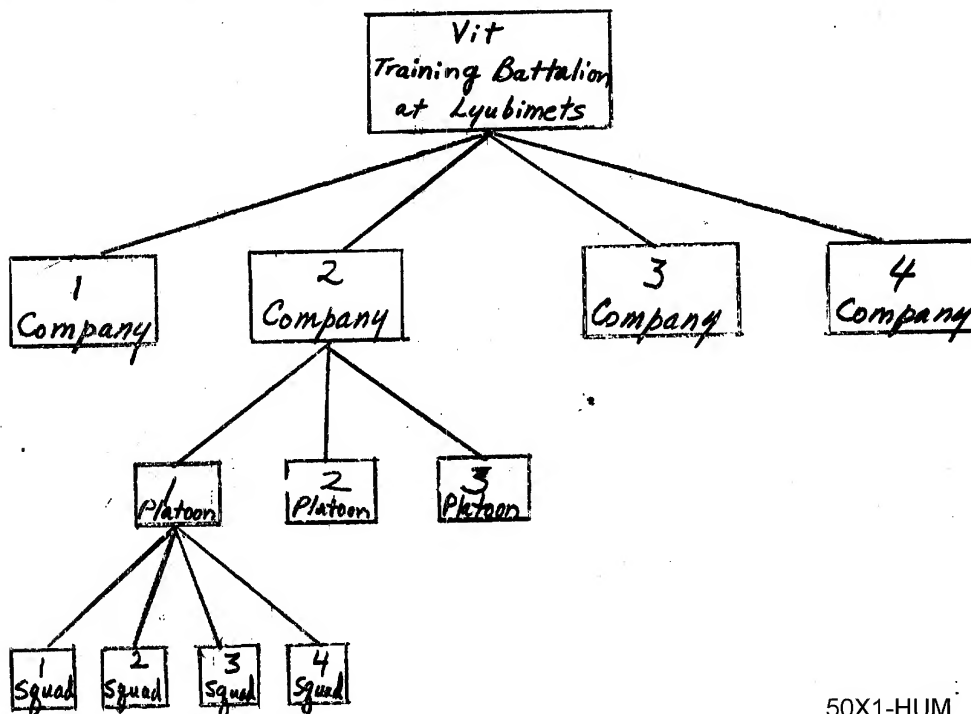
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-2-

Vit Border Training Battalion

5. The Vit Border Training Battalion at Lyubimets is attached to an unidentified border sektor which was transferred from Svilengrad to Lyubimets in April 1950.
6. All equipment, food, and other supplies needed by the training battalion are requisitioned and obtained from the Sektor at Lyubimets.
7. The battalion had an approximate strength of 480-520 men, including permanent personnel, and was composed of four companies composed of 120-130 men each. Each company had three platoons composed of four squads. The sketch below shows the organization of the battalion:



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Indoctrination

8. [redacted] approximately 100 recruits were met by a group of officers and enlisted men at the railroad in Lyubimets and escorted to the battalion barracks.
9. All recruits were then taken to the barracks shower room, ordered to clean up, and were later issued army clothing.
10. On 6 December 1950, approximately three days after arrival, the recruits were assigned to their specific companies. Actual training began on 16 December 1950.

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-3-

Training

11.

12. The training program consisted of the following subjects:

- a. Physical: Usually one hour every morning composed of calisthenics and sports;
- b. Moral-Political: Daily geography study, Bulgarian border area, personal histories and/or background of prominent Communist personalities;
- c. Border duty: Daily study of organization and purpose of Border troops, border duty, secret and other patrols, and method of operation in border areas;
- d. Tactical: Daily theoretical study of "squad and/or any other type of combat procedures;" and
- e. Arms familiarization: Daily training, consisting of firing range practice with a different weapon each week, usually firing 20-25 rounds with each weapon, including the Mauser, Mannlicher, and Vintovka rifles, Schmeisser and Shpagen automatic pistols, MG-34 and Degtyarev light machine guns.

Personnel

13. The following men were officers of 1 Company:

- a. Senior First Lieutenant Markov, Commanding Officer;
- b. First Lieutenant Raichev, Political and deputy Commanding Officer;
- c. Master Sergeant Kukulov, Company first sergeant;
- d. First Lieutenant Kolev, Commander 1 Platoon;
- e. First Lieutenant Jordanov, Commander 2 Platoon;
- f. Sergeant Daniel Danilov, assistant Commander 2 Platoon;
- g. First Lieutenant Georgi Donchev Simeonov, Commander 3 Platoon;
- h. Corporal Dimitur Milchev, Squad leader 1 Squad, 3 Platoon;
- i. Corporal Boyan, Squad leader 2 Squad, 3 Platoon;
- j. Corporal Chushev, Squad leader 3 Squad, 3 Platoon; and
- k. Corporal Gospodin Georgiev, Squad leader 4 Squad, 3 Platoon.

14. Informant also knew the following personnel:

- a. Senior First Lieutenant Tanev, Commanding Officer of the battalion;
- b. Senior First Lieutenant Stoyanov, Deputy Commanding Officer of the battalion;

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-4-

- c. Sergeant First Class Stoicho (last name unknown), Commander 3 Platoon, 2 Company; a good soldier whose platoon always rated best in the battalion; and
- d. Senior First Lieutenant Kaloferov, Commanding Officer 3 Company.

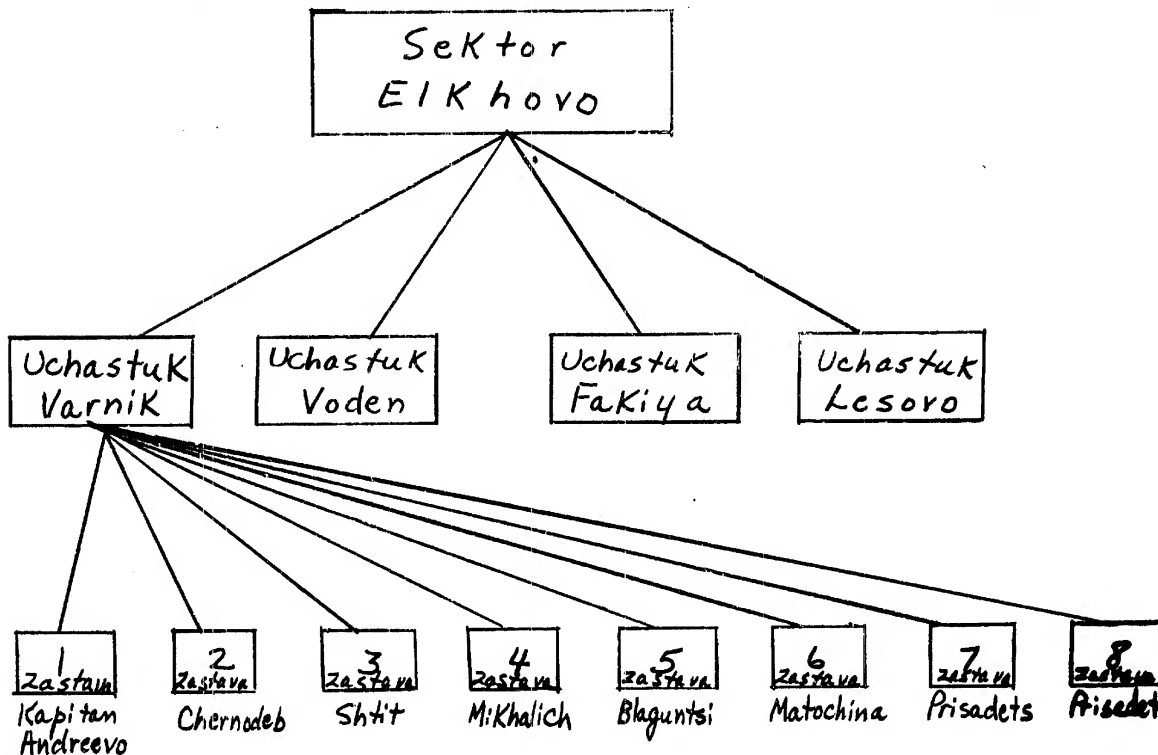
Cheshma Border Uchastuk, [redacted] at Varnik

50X1-HUM

15. [redacted]

16. The Varnik uchastuk is composed of eight zastavas, each composed of approximately 45 men, located at the following points along the Bulgarian-Turkish border:
- 1 Zastava, Edelweiss, at Kapitan Andreevo;
 - 2 Zastava, Yagoda, at Chernodeb;
 - 3 Zastava, Tumna Noga, at Shtit;
 - 4 Zastava, Yastrip-Topola, at Mikhalich;
 - 5 Zastava, Burza, at Blaguntsi;
 - 6 Zastava, Korushe, in the vicinity of Matochina;
 - 7 Zastava, Malina, in the vicinity and east of Prasadets; and
 - 8 Zastava, Yasen, in the vicinity and northeast of Prasadets.

17. The following sketch shows the breakdown of the sektor and the Varnik uchastuk:



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-7-

h. First Lieutenant Iodorov, Commanding Officer reserve zastava;

i. First Lieutenant Aleksiev, Commanding Officer 1 Zastava;

j. First Lieutenant Stoyanov, Commanding Officer 3 Zastava; and

50X1-HUM

k. Sergeant Chivachev, in charge of 7 Zastava, [REDACTED]

Border Troop Service

50X1-HUM

32. Border troops are under the direct control of the Ministry of Interior. Lieutenant General Yanko Panov is the Commanding general of the border troops. [REDACTED]

33. The entire border troop service is composed of 4-6 sektors under the administration of one central headquarters or otryad. Each sektor is subdivided into 4-6 uchastuks of 4-8 zastavas each.

34. Training officers for the border training battalions are requisitioned from regular border units and are re-transferred to their original units after their specific training periods have been completed.

35. Border officers are graduates of a 2-year officers school operated by the border service and located at Sofia. Men graduating with honors are commissioned first lieutenants and the others are commissioned second lieutenants. All students (cadets) must have completed at least junior high school education and must be members in good standing of the Communist Party or front organizations.

36. Border service non-commissioned officers are trained in non-commissioned officers schools located at Sofia and Turnovo. Candidates are chosen from personnel who have successfully completed their border basic training, completed high school, and who are DSNM (Dimitrovski Suyuz na Narodnata Vlast: Dimitrov's Union of the People's Youth) members in good standing.

37. Men who successfully completed the 9-months' non-commissioned officers training course graduate as sergeants. Those graduates desiring and agreeing to serve five years beyond their initial compulsory 3-year term are immediately promoted to the rank of master sergeant.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment: Since the "wheel apparatus" was used in conjunction with the transmitting key, it is possible that these radios were powered by hand-operated generators.

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-6-

Activity

23. Each zastava barracks area is guarded by 3-man teams who patrol for 8-hour periods. In addition, there is always one sergeant on duty who is responsible for the operation of the unit mess, receipt of mail and phone calls, and who is in charge of the quarters.
24. Zastava personnel not on patrol or guard duty between 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon or 3:00-6:00 p.m. undergo a daily political and arms familiarization training program. The political training consists only of dissemination of Communist and anti-West propaganda to the unit personnel.
25. Zastava personnel not on patrol or guard duty from 4:00-7:00 p.m. may use this period for calisthenics or sports.
26. Medical care and first aid are administered by a medical master sergeant attached to uchastuk headquarters who visits each zastava by motorcycle. A medical officer, also stationed at headquarters, visits each zastava once every two months. Personnel requiring extensive medical care are transferred to the military hospital at Sliven.
27. An undisclosed number of zastava personnel chosen as outstanding soldiers are sent, without equipment, to Sofia to participate in the 1 May and 9 September parades each year.
28. Personnel caught sleeping while on patrol or guard duty are subject to 1-10 years of imprisonment. 50X1-HUM
29. receiving and sending letters is not restricted in any way.

Personnel

30. The following men were officers of the sektor at Elkhovo:
 - a. Colonel Trichkov, Commanding Officer;
 - b. Captain Kafaliev, Deputy Commanding Officer; and
 - c. Major Shulev, Commanding Officer headquarters unit.
31. The following men were officers of the Varzik uchastuk:
 - a. Senior First Lieutenant Zudravkov, Commanding Officer;
 - b. Senior First Lieutenant Benchev, Commanding Officer headquarters unit;
 - c. First Lieutenant Pondurski, Political Officer;
 - d. Second Lieutenant Angelov, secretary of the uchastuk Communist Party section;
 - e. Second Lieutenant Ivanov, Security Officer;
 - f. First Lieutenant Kuyumchiev, RO Officer², assigned to uchastuk;
 - g. Second Lieutenant Generalski, RO officer, assistant to Kuyumchiev;

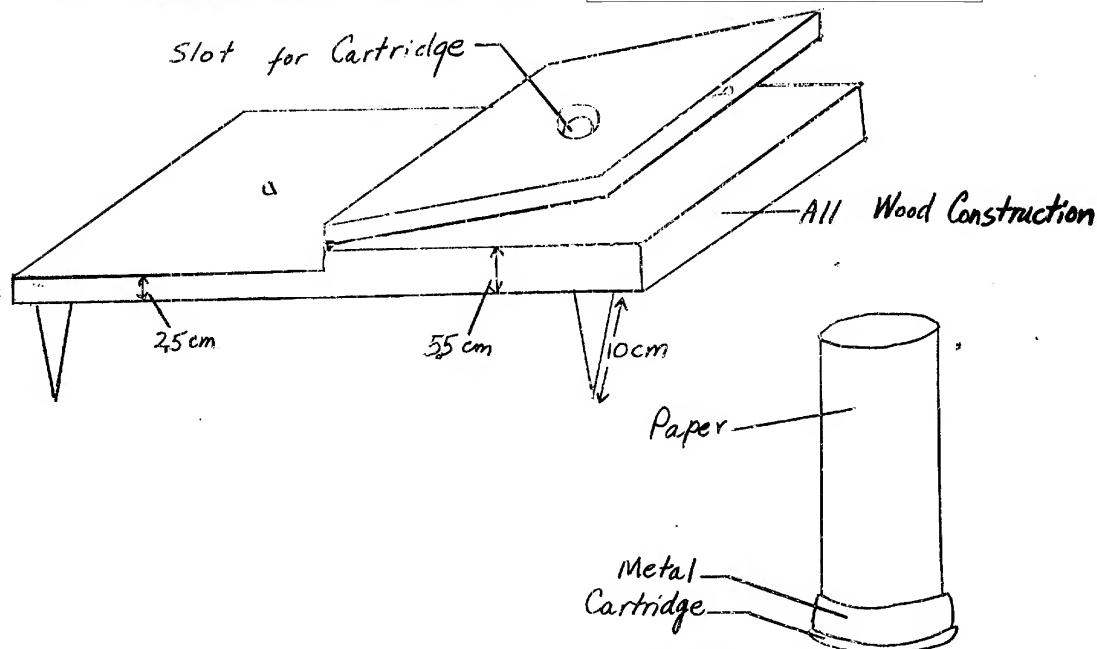
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-5-

Equipment

18. Uchastuk personnel were equipped with German Mauser and Mannlicher rifles, Soviet Vintovka rifles, and Shpagen 7.65 caliber automatic pistols. Individual soldiers were also equipped with engineer implements consisting of pick and shovel to be used in trench and earth fortification excavations.
19. The uchastuk was equipped with Degtyarev light machine guns and Maksim heavy machine guns on Sokolov mounts. Each zastava was also supposed to be equipped with at least three light machine guns. Hand grenades were issued only to personnel doing patrol duty and/or in emergencies and consisted of two types of German stick grenades, designated as offensive and defensive grenades. The offensive grenades, cylindrical in shape, are used by personnel on patrol duty and explode within six seconds after being thrown. The defensive grenades, spherical in shape, are stored in unit barracks; the grenades are effective in an area up to 45 meters in diameter.
20. One soldier in each zastava, usually the best marksman of the unit, was issued a sniper's rifle with telescope sights. 50X1-HUM
21. Each zastava had telephone contact with the uchastuk; 1 and 3 zastavas were also equipped with one W/T set each. [redacted] W/T equipment [redacted] the operator was using a normal finger transmitting key and that a second man sat on a three-legged stool next to the operator and cranked some sort of "wheel apparatus."¹
22. Each zastava was equipped with an unspecified number of avtosignalizator (automatic signal rockets) embedded in the ground at various locations in the zastava area and fired by means of trip-wires conveniently located for patrol personnel use. The sketch below, not drawn to scale [redacted] 50X1-HUM



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